



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 133**

*January Session, 2001*

Substitute Senate Bill No. 851

*Senate, April 5, 2001*

The Committee on Public Safety reported through SEN. PENN of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVES FOR STATE TROOPERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 29-3a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
2 substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) After graduation from the State Police Training Academy, and  
4 before becoming a sworn member of the Division of State Police within  
5 the Department of Public Safety, all state police trainees shall have  
6 received a high school diploma or an equivalent approved by the state  
7 Department of Education. Nothing in this section shall prohibit  
8 prospective state police applicants from being admitted to the State  
9 Police Training Academy without having received either the high  
10 school diploma or equivalent.

11 (b) The Commissioner of Public Safety may establish, within  
12 available appropriations, a program of incentives for state police

13 officers who take courses leading to a college degree. The program  
14 shall require that, to be eligible for incentives, the courses must be  
15 taken at accredited Connecticut colleges or universities, except that if a  
16 college or university outside Connecticut offers a better course at a  
17 comparable cost, the commissioner may allow such course to be  
18 eligible under this program. Participation shall be limited to sworn  
19 state police officers who are employed by the Division of State Police  
20 within the Department of Public Safety at the time of enrollment and at  
21 the time of course completion. The commissioner may adopt  
22 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry  
23 out the provisions of this subsection.

***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

In subsection (b), "fully accredited" was changed to "accredited" for accuracy.

***PS***            ***JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST.***

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Affected Agencies:** Department of Public Safety

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation****State Impact:**

This bill is anticipated to have no fiscal impact. It requires the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to establish an incentive program for State Police Officers who take courses leading to a college degree. The program must be established within existing resources. No cost is anticipated because the department already has an education incentive program that provides reimbursement for State Police Officers' college tuition. It is not clear what additional education incentive program could be established. The existing program has not been fully utilized for at least the last four years.

The State Police union contract, which runs through FY 04, provides \$40,000 per year for college tuition reimbursement. Article 19 Compensation, Section 6a Tuition Reimbursement, requires this. The program reimburses 100% of costs at a rate of \$90 per undergraduate credit and \$110 per graduate credit, with a maximum of 9 credits per semester. Moneys not spent in one year do not lapse and carry forward into the next year. In the last three years the average amount spent for tuition reimbursement is about \$30,900. The account is projected to begin FY 03 with \$76,620.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>START</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>END</b>
<b>FY 99</b>	\$46,313	\$33,231	\$13,082
<b>FY 00</b>	\$53,082	\$29,841	\$23,241
<b>FY 01 Est.</b>	\$63,241	\$29,621	\$36,620

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sSB 851

***AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVES FOR STATE TROOPERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows the public safety commissioner to establish, within available appropriations, an incentive program for state police officers who take courses leading to a college degree. The program must require that the courses be taken at accredited Connecticut colleges or universities. But if an out-of-state institution offers a better course at a comparable cost, the commissioner may approve it.

The bill limits program participation to people who are sworn and employed as state police officers when they enroll in, and when they complete, the course. It allows the commissioner to adopt implementing regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

**BACKGROUND*****Current Police Tuition Reimbursement Program***

The state police union contract, which expires in 2004, provides \$40,000 per year in the State Police Tuition Reimbursement Fund to reimburse state police officers up to specified limits for tuition for graduate and undergraduate programs.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22      Nay 0

